

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6499**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 146

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 20, 2011

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Straight Party Voting.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Delph

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill removes a voter's option to vote for all candidates of a political party or an independent ticket at one time (straight ticket voting) in a general or municipal election, except for candidates for presidential electors. The bill repeals superseded statutes relating to straight ticket voting.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2013.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The Election Commission would have to approve of any new software needed for the direct recording electronic (DRE) voting systems to accomplish the requirement of the bill. It is likely that the Election Commission would be able to examine and approve new software during a regular meeting of the Commission. The Commission is scheduled to meet seven times during CY 2011.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** The bill would require changes to paper ballot, ballot card, and direct recording electronic methods. With respect to ballot cards (used for optical scan voting systems), the removal of instructions for voting a straight ticket and the straight-ticket indication ovals by the devices of the major parties would require a ballot reconfiguration. Their removal could reduce printing costs of the ballots in the long run. Ballot cards generally cost approximately \$0.32 per card.

DRE voting systems must currently have either a push button (on older DREs) or an icon on a touchscreen system for voting a straight ticket. It is unknown whether the removal of straight-party voting ability could be accomplished via reprogramming existing machines or if new software would need to be purchased. New software purchases would require additional expenditures of an indeterminable amount.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Indiana Election Commission.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Counties; Marion County Election Board.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.